

MARCH, 1927

**THE • AMERICAN •  
SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW**



Lake Stryn, Nordfjord

**TRAVEL IN THE NORTH**



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## FINANCIAL NOTES

## THE NORWEGIAN KRONE

In the opinion of Johan Ludwig Mowinkel, former Norwegian premier, the best means for keeping the currency of the country stabilized is to have the krone remain where it is at the present time. To advance it to par would, says Mr. Mowinkel, cause too great an economic disturbance now, but he would also desire that there should be no decline from the present value of the krone. The action of the government and the Bank of Norway has had much to do with the present satisfactory position of the krone, Mr. Mowinkel added in his address at Bryne, near Stavanger.

## SWEDEN'S PUBLIC REVENUE

The Swedish Government experts estimate the country's total public revenue for the coming budget year, 1927-28, to be 522,682,400 kronor, of which the income tax is expected to yield 147,000,000 kronor, the automobile tax 23,000,000 kronor, import duties 124,000,000 kronor, and other sources close to 90,000,000 kronor. A total of 93,150,000 kronor is expected from the public service departments, such as the railroads, the post office, telephone and telegraph services, water power and forests. The income from these sources is expected to be 3,500,000 kronor more than has been the case the current year.

## DANISH LOAN IN THE UNITED STATES

Dillon, Read & Co., together with the Guaranty Trust Company of New York, and International Acceptance Bank, Inc., have furnished the Danish Export Credit Committee with a loan of \$1,100,000 guaranteed 4½ per cent gold notes, unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by endorsement by the Kingdom of Denmark. The Mortgage Bank of the Kingdom of Denmark will control and supervise the issuance of the notes. The proceeds of the loan will be used to extend credit to Danish exporters or to reimburse the committee for credits so extended.

BRITISH EMPIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HONORS  
JAMES BROWN

On his retirement as president of the British Empire Chamber of Commerce, James Brown, of Brown Brothers & Co., was honored by the members of that body at a luncheon. In his retiring address Mr. Brown dwelt on the British coal strike and its economic effects and reviewed the general situation in Europe during the three years he had held office as president. C. S. LePoer Trench, of Charles S. Trench & Co., was elected to succeed Mr. Brown.

## FINLAND'S BANKING LAWS TO BE RECONSTRUCTED

The Finnish minister of finance has proposed to the State Council that new banking laws be established, since those in effect date back as far as 1886, and no longer answer the purpose of the increased business of Finland. A committee has been appointed of which Yrjö Pullkinen is chairman and which includes the chief director for Finland's bank, R. Rytö.

## NOTE CIRCULATION DECREASING

The National Bank of Denmark states that the note circulation, as of December 1, 1926, was 378,000,000 kroner, or 56,000,000 kroner less than the year before. Norwegian bank note circulation, as given by Norges Bank, was 351,000,000 kroner, as compared with 321,000,000 kroner in 1925, while the note circulation of Sweden, according to the Swedish Riksbank, was 503,000,000 kronor, compared with 477,000,000 kronor on December 1, 1925. A decrease in note circulation in all three countries evidences a gratifying improvement in financial affairs and gives promise of further stability of currencies.

## ANDRESENS AND BERGENS KREDITBANK

The Norwegian Bank Inspection is at present busy with examining the branches of Andresens and Bergens Kreditbank with the view of conferring later with representatives of the Bank of Norway as to how to proceed with the future management of the banks now having government support. As soon as the examination of the Bergen branch is concluded, the administrator of the branch will meet the administrator of the Oslo branch in order to formulate a plan for concerted action. It is possible that the question of separating Andresens and Bergens Kreditbank will be considered at the conference with the Bank of Norway.

## DENMARK RETURNING TO GOLD STANDARD

The outstanding event in Danish financial circles last year was the return of the krone to par, and return to the gold standard as the new year impended. The outlook for 1927 generally promises exchange stability, the completion of a readjustment of price levels, and a slow improvement in the industrial and labor situations. During the closing months of 1926 the scarcity of money was reflected in the sharp advance in loans and discounts at the National Bank. The chief financial plan of the Liberal Government, which came into power at the recent election, is a reduction in public expenditures. The question of taxation is awaited with keen interest, as it was one of the issues that caused the fall of the Social Democratic régime.

## FOREIGN LOANS INCREASE IN VOLUME

While the total volume of foreign government issues floated in the United States during 1926 is substantially smaller than during 1925, says the Monthly Bulletin of the National City Bank of New York, the total foreign issues for all purposes, including government, state, municipal, and corporate, showed a slight increase, being \$1,212,689,000 in 1926 as compared with \$1,194,589,000 in 1925. The growing importance of the Latin American countries as an outlet for investment capital from the United States was seen in the increase of loans from \$203,234,000 in 1925 to \$424,540,000 last year.

1864

1927

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E. DIETH is lecturer in German at Aberdeen University, Scotland. He has twice visited Iceland and spent each time several weeks in exploring the scenes of the principal sagas. His command of modern Icelandic has enabled him to enter intimately into the mind of the Iclander which to the average traveller would be a closed book.

RICARD PAULLI has several times contributed to the REVIEW, his last contribution being "Holberg: Country Gentleman." He is assistant librarian in the Royal Library in Copenhagen.

YNGVE HEDVALL, representative of the REVIEW in Sweden, is editor of the Swedish Publishers' Weekly.

### LIFE ASSOCIATES

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MONUMENT TO INGOLF ARNARSON, FIRST SETTLER OF ICELAND, WHO TOOK LAND IN 874  
*Ejnar Jónsson, Sculptor*

# THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

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## Round the Sagasteads of Iceland

*By* E. DIETH

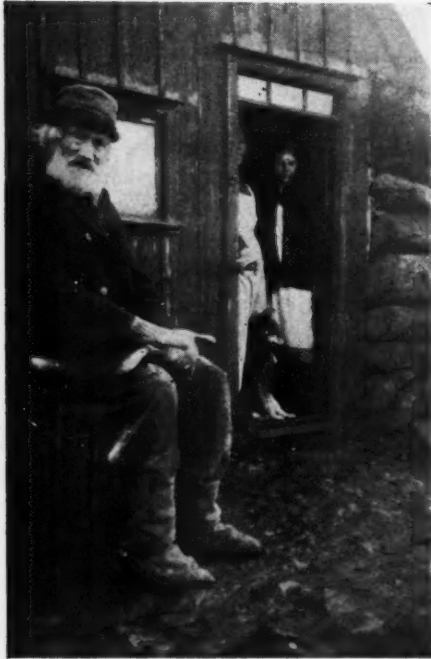
**D**URING the great age of the Vikings, far-away Iceland was a coveted spot. Again and again the fearless Norsemen ventured forth beyond the Orkneys and the Hebrides to Ireland and Iceland. Nor did they content themselves with putting in, roving about, and exploring; after Ingolf Arnarson had settled in the "reekie wick," as North of Scotland people might say, others began to take possession of unowned land and build upon it. It was theirs for the taking; and very good land it was, too, if we are to believe the reports returning adventurers spread in their home country, Norway. "Butter," Thorolf reported, "was dripping from every blade of grass in the country they had discovered."

Ever since the first settlements, the traffic with Scandinavia has been kept up, first in the form of friendly relations with the homeland, later on an extensive commercial basis. With the dawn of modern travel, connections with the outside world have been multiplied. Now a visitor to Iceland need not necessarily be a merchant, dealing in fish and fur. Pleasure boats call there every summer. Indeed it is one of the topical problems in Iceland whether that country will and should attract tourists.

A holiday in Iceland is indeed a novelty from beginning to end. For him, however, who is merely moved by a thirst which Switzerland, Italy, and Egypt can no longer quench, a week or two will suffice. By that time he will have absorbed the singularity of nature in lava stretches, icebound mountain ranges, weirdly shaped crags, and sandy plains. He will marvel at the variety of exquisite colors, often blended to a most impressive picture. He will certainly enjoy the unusually clear atmosphere, mellowed by a bluish film, just light enough not to interfere with the good visibility. He will get infinite pleasure out of riding the ponies, which have character and abilities

all their own. He will be impressed, just as I was on first seeing land, by the wave-battered rocky coast, the needle crags, and the regular array of islets, floating in the sea just like big dark straw hats. Many are the sources of his delight, and yet he has not tapped the best—the Icelander himself.

The foreigner is apt to misunderstand him, to call him reserved, shy, and submissive. So he will be, if you have nothing to offer him but a tongue-tied gaze. Take him on, and you will soon feel how he is



A FARMER AT HVAMM IN SKORRADAL

bubbling with questions and yearning to hear all about foreign lands. I have often had the people crowding around me, just as they would gather, in the days of old, around a kinsman coming back from abroad. The classical episode is in *Njal's Saga* where Gunnar, just back from Norway, is called upon by friends and relatives at the *Althing* to report. He finally gets away with a fair lady whom he first treats to the travel news and next to questions which end in his proposing to her. "What is the news?" is the standard question on arriving. The dumb visitor to Iceland is cheating his host of a rare opportunity; and you will soon find, it is not sheer inquisitiveness that moves him; he has read and wants to get confirmed what he has read; his belief in the human voice is naturally greater

than in the dead letter. You will next find that he is as ready to give as to take. Soon enough he will do the main share of the talking. He is a born talker, and he takes care that a story does not lose in the telling. Unless you remain a perfect stranger to him, he will unfold to you his philosophy. If man be the product of his environment, we may expect the Icelander to have a marked individuality in mental outlook, and so he has. Unless the visitor has come under the influence of the native mind, he does not know Iceland beyond what his two eyes have seen.

The great secret of the Icelander's mental aspect is that he has not allowed his past to be dead and forgotten; he has kept it alive through all these centuries. The external conditions have been piously preserved, and faith in the past has been religiously cultivated, while even the language has remained essentially that of the twelfth century. Far



more than in any other country do modern conditions assist a clear perception of the ages gone by. Last summer I visited Worms, the scene of some of the episodes of the famous Nibelungen saga; but my having seen the ancient awe-inspiring minster and its neighborhood is a very slender and imperfect help towards a better understanding of a court scene in Gunther's castle. Those times are gone, their traces wiped out. Not so in Iceland, the only civilized country that has not been swamped by modern civilization. History in Iceland has marched more slowly and always in due respect to the past.

You come across farms which need not have changed their appearance much since the great days when that masterful lady, Unn, kept house in Hvamm; when Njal gave advice and redressed grievances; when Snorri schemed, and Grettir suffered. The old time farmstead was erected on a small allowance of timber with driftwood and an abundance of greensward. It was not unusual for Icelanders to return home from Norway with a cargo of timber for their houses. Höskuld sailed out for that purpose and came back with two acquisitions on board, the beautiful slave woman, Melkorka, and a load of timber procured for him by King Haakon. Gunnar was offered a cargo of timber and flour as a parting present. The structure of the buildings is the same now as it was then; there are as many gables or houses as rooms, a farm, therefore, being referred to as "houses."

He who wants to trace historical associations need not rely solely on printed information. The Iceland peasant is sufficiently conversant with the sagas of his neighborhood and therefore in a position to draw the student's attention to local relics and associations.

The early settlements were chiefly on the west coast, where there were inviting places for landing on the shores of the broad firths, Breidifjord and Borgarfjord, and at the mouths of the rivers, Hvita and Thjorsa. It is in this region, therefore, we must look for the scene of the principal sagas. Farthest to the southwest, the names of Hlidarendi and Keldur keep alive the memories of Njal's Saga. On arriving at Keldur one Sunday afternoon, after walking through trackless sand for fully two hours, my conversation with the farmer soon touched on the saga. He wanted to know whether on my way I had noticed the four hillocks, the Knafaholar, where Gunnar and his two brothers on their way home to Hlidarendi had been waylaid. We found out I had; he then went away to fetch a well thumbled copy of Njal's Saga—in the popular edition, copies of which are found in most homes—and we read together the passages referring to Keldur and the vicinity. He next showed me where the springs (*keldur*) of the purest water gurgled out of the ground, just below the dwelling. Looking further afield across to the Thrihyrning, "the three pikes," he talked at great length about this hill, involved in so many incidents of the story. It was with a warm heart and sincere feeling that he told



THREE STRAPPING BROTHERS WHO ROWED THE AUTHOR  
OUT TO GEIRSHOLM, OLD HAUNT OF OUTLAWS



THE MILKY WHITE RIVER HVITA RUNNING THROUGH THE  
DESERT WHERE GRETIR SPENT MUCH OF HIS LIFE

his tales, rendering those narratives to me doubly real and dramatic. And yet the farmer of Keldur was not what we should call a talkative man by any means; his hopeless struggle against the devastating clouds of sand, blown from the Hekla sand plain close by, had made him rather stern and glum; but get him on the subject of Gunnar, and his earthly woes are forgotten. He was a well-read man, who, as so many others in Iceland, had educated himself on the saga-books. I often noticed him imitating the saga style in his conversational language.

An even more interesting experience I had in Fitjar i Skorradal, the scene of Hörd's Saga. The farmer

there, whose accumulated wealth was all within his skull, no longer needed the printed book, so thoroughly had he absorbed the details and the wording of it. His thirst for knowledge had even driven him to read and learn German. He had, I felt, the time of his life when discoursing with a foreign student on the facts and form of Hörd's Saga. Although a man of 65 and of indifferent health, he would not have me depart without accompanying me. We took the historic "road," the Sildarmannagötu, climbing over a considerable height down to the Hvalfjörð. He was leading, I followed; but every now and again he would stop and recite and explain to me. We comfortably reached the ridge, and pushed straight on until, somewhat lower down, the view opened up: the firth in its full length, the picturesque little island Geirsholm, the home and playground of those roving robber outlaws, Hörd and his eighty fol-

lowers. There we sat with this scene at our feet, enlivened by the well-told accounts of this sturdy peasant. We parted, I, for one, infinitely richer for the experience.

Almost any Iceland visitor would wend his way to Borg, on an arm of the Borgarfjörð, and the well-advised would stay there for the night. It is a *kirkju boer*, a "church-farm," and always has been since Thorstein Egilsson had the church built. He brought there the body of his nephew Kjartan to be buried after the treacherous murder—one of the most dramatic episodes in Laxdoela Saga. Borg was also the home of Iceland's foremost bard, Egil Skallagrimsson, and of his grand-daughter Helga the Fair, for

whose love the two young poets Gunnlaug and Hrafn fought a deadly duel. You feel you are treading on venerable soil, and Sjera Einarr, the parson, is a worthy interpreter of the eventful times gone by. Could I forget our midnight vigil, how we were seated on the front door step overlooking the bays and promontories of the firth? How easily one's fancy is stirred in the mysteriously quiet, faintly dimmed night! My mind saw all the boats that had put in and out there, in that best-known of all landing places. There they had been drawn up for the winter, and rigged out again the following spring. Hither Olaf had come from the Dales to meet his returning son Kjartan and tell him of Gudrun's marriage. Here Skallagrim had explored every creek before setting up his abode between fjaell and fjörð, at the foot of the *borg*, the fortress-like hill seen at the back of the dwelling house; there, close to the shore, you imagine you see the



BORG, SCENE OF MANY SAGAS, AND HOME OF ICELAND'S GREATEST SKALD, EGIL SKALLAGRIMSSON



LOOKING OUT OVER THE BORGARFJÖRD FROM BORG, MOST FAMOUS OF LANDING PLACES



THE HELGAFELL OR "HOLY FELL" WHICH ONE MAY NOT  
LOOK ON UNWASHED



WHERE THE CURRENT IS TOO STRONG FOR WADING THE  
HORSES ARE FERRIED ACROSS



AN OLD FARM BUILT OF STONE AND GREENSWARD

smithy Skallagrim had erected to pursue his craft as a ship-builder and smith.

Snæfellsnes, thrust out into the sea, dividing Borgarfjord and Breidifjord, the two broad firths of the west, lures any traveller, when of a clear evening that majestic pyramid, the *jökull*, looms out of the blue expanse of water and projects itself against the blend of yellow and purple in the western sky. Farther inland your eyes are met by a hill of regular lines, oddly rising out of the flat country around. It is Helgafell of Eyrbyggja fame, the holy fell which according to the first settlers, no one should look upon unwashed.

There is nothing like recognizing, seeing in real form and bulk, what before you had vainly tried to picture to yourself. Our host was not long in embarking on saga matters, whilst the grandmother busied herself in finding the book. The object lesson was ready to begin. The feature was our ascent of the hill. Half way up, overlooking the church and



the *tun*, we saw below the traces of the grave of Gudrun in Laxdoela Saga, that most impressive of all saga-women. Nearly 900 years ago she passed away with that Brynhild confession: "Him I treated worst whom I loved most."

Our way along the Skogaströnd — one wonders how much wood there may have been, when the first colonizers, Unn and her lot, named the coast—turned round the heel of the "watery boot" until we had the two neighboring farms on either side of the Laxa, Höskuldsstadir and Hjardarholt, in front. We are still in the home of the Laxdoela Saga. The scene calls up the romance of Höskuld with Melkorka, his mistress of noble Irish birth, the delightful early morning scene at the brook where the long-suffering mother—who had feigned dumbness—revealed herself by playing and babbling with her little boy. And one can see Höskuld, standing at the front door, as he had been bidden, watching his son Olaf's removal from Goddasta-



THE FARM REYKIR WHERE GRETTIR FETCHED FIRE IN HIS DIREST NEED



DRANGEY, SACRED TO ALL ICELANDERS AS THE HAUNT OF THE OUTLAW HERO GRETTIR



OUR CAVALCADE FOLLOWING THE MOUNTAIN PATH



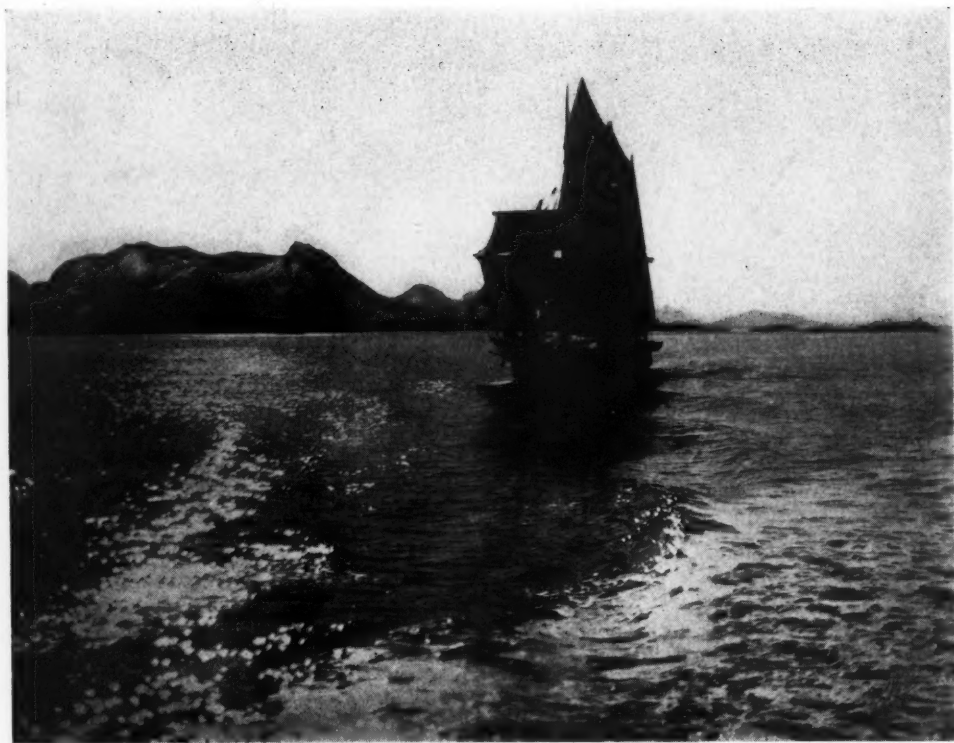
THE "KERLING" OR OLD WIFE'S  
CRAG AT DRANGEY

dir to Hjardarholt, an uninterrupted train of live-stock some three miles long.

A few days steady riding north and east brought us to Grettir's haunts. Where has not this hunted outlaw been on his wanderings! The Skagafjord on the north shore is rich in Grettir memories. Every child knows Drangey, the national hero's final refuge. It is the Iclander's greatest ambition to visit that island, which greets the traveller, however many miles inland he may be. For that purpose you can hire a launch at the head of the loch, but I thought this too prosaic; so we pushed forth on the western shore, as far as the road would go, to Reykir, the northernmost farm and nearest to Drangey. The ride against the lingering midnight sun in the company of a jovial farmer was most

impressive. His local news dealt with the legends of the firth; when the *Kerling*, the Old Wife's Crag, became clearly detached from Drangey, he explained to us its "origin and history." It was getting close on to midnight when our destination was reached. Reykir is mentioned in Grettir's Saga. When Glaum, the servant of the two brothers, let the fire go out through carelessness, Grettir decided to swim across to this farm to obtain the indispensable element. We rowed out the following day in a six-oared boat through a thick fog. The croaking noise of the birds, which was our only guide, reminded us that already during Grettir's stay sea-birds garrisoned the island in thousands, proving a most valuable asset as a food supply. Just as we were approaching this impregnable fastness, the mist lifted and revealed the sheer cliffs in all their grandeur.

On our journey eastward, our cavalcade proceeded from Holar over the snow-covered pass to Svarfadardal, a valley whose lower regions are studded with solitary crofts. At one of them we turned in for our afternoon coffee and cakes. I was not aware that we were passing through the district of one of the minor sagas, but the farmer soon remedied my deficiencies, and on parting he fervently asked me—addressing me with the familiar "thou," as do the Icelanders among themselves—to read the saga on getting home and to favor him with a note after having done so.



Photograph by Wilse

WHERE IBSEN'S "WARRIORS OF HELGELAND" DWELT

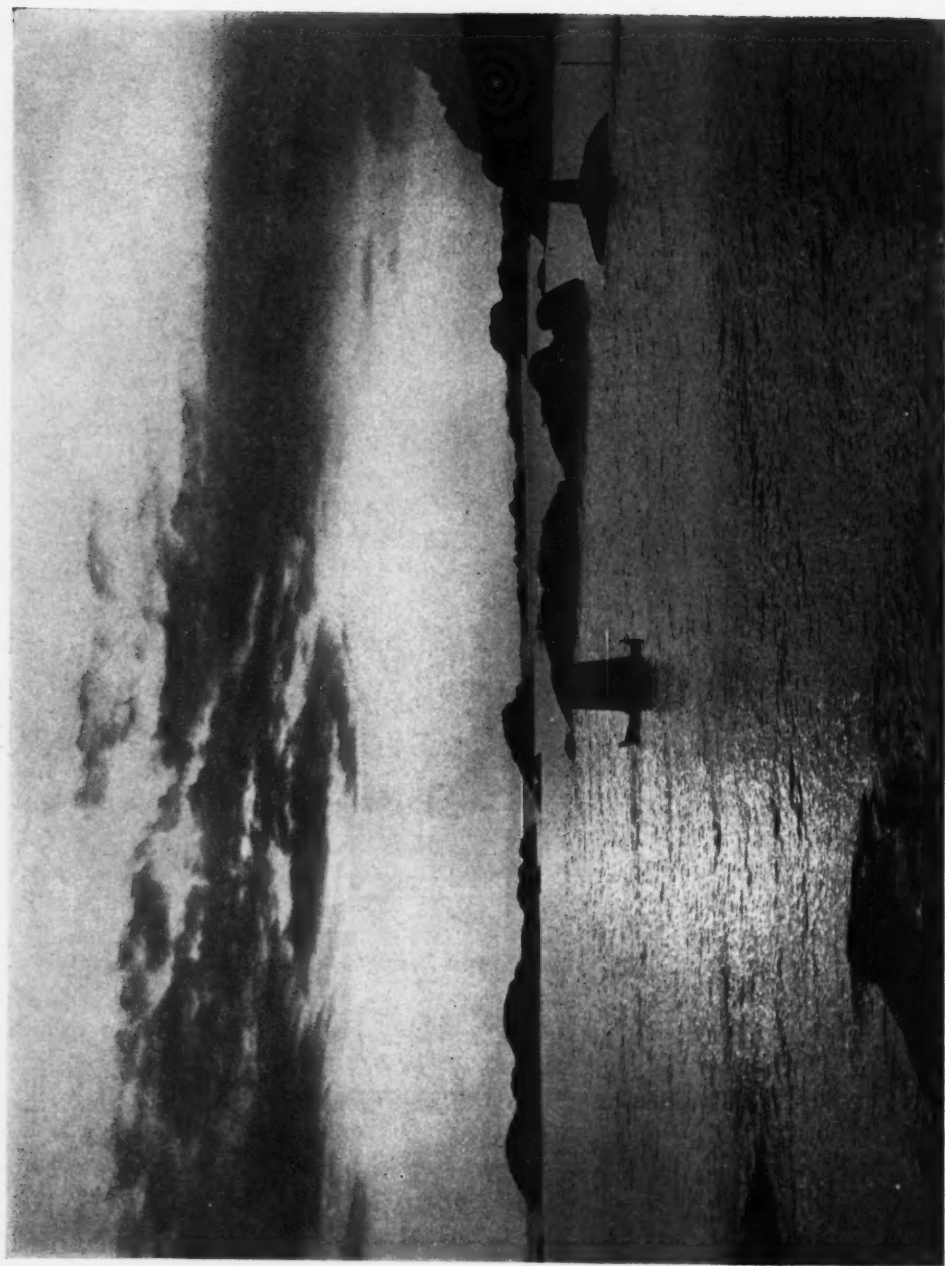
## Norway's Scarf of Seas

*ON what loom was wove this scarf of seas  
 That Norway wears,  
 The rich, encircling sheen  
 That hangs as does a mantle from her shoulder?  
 It is her natural dress; her argosies  
 Its pattern bears,  
 And in the fabric many a woven scene  
 Of yesterday's adventures still enfold her.*

J. C.

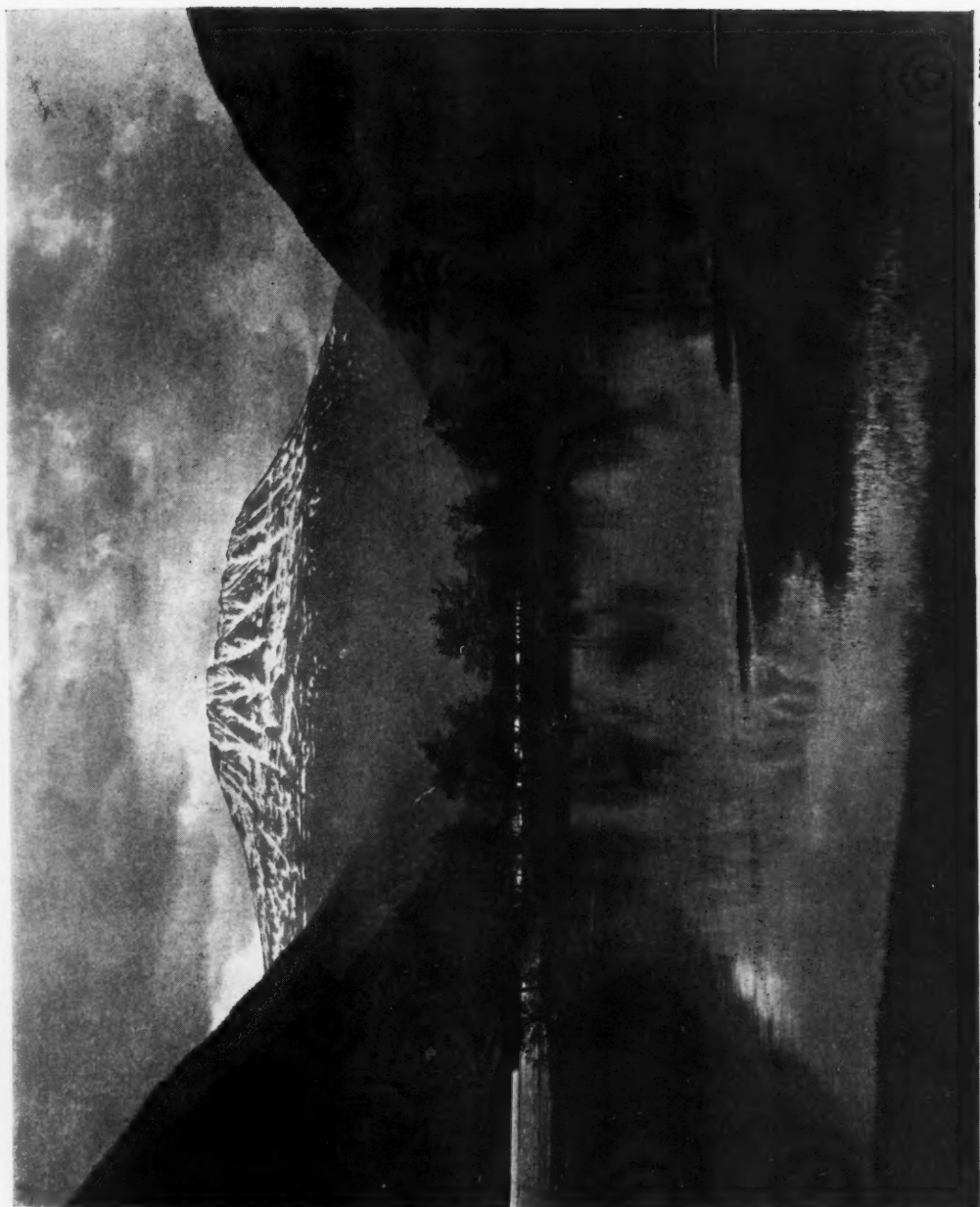
*Photographs courtesy of Norwegian State Railways.*

SUMMER IN NORD-  
LAND WHERE THE  
NIGHT IS ONLY A  
FAINT GOLDEN MIST  
OVER SKY AND SEA



Photograph by Wilse





MOUNT GAUSTA IN  
TELEMARKEN MIRRORED IN THE QUIET  
MOUNTAIN TARN

THE OSLOFJORD IN  
TRANQUIL MOOD A  
WINTER EVENING



Photograph by Wilse



SUMMER AMONG  
THE ISLANDS OF  
THE OSLOFJORD



Photograph by A. Lauridsen

RIBE WITH ITS ENCIRCLING RIVER, SEEN FROM THE MARSH

## Historic Towns of Denmark

### IV. Ribe, Famous in Ballad and Story

By RICARD PAULLI

**A** GIGANTIC cathedral towering above the little red-roofed houses of the ancient town that clusters at its feet, a setting of emerald green meadow stretching as far as the eye can reach—that is the picture of Ribe which meets the approaching traveler. The stork, which has now in fact become a *rara avis* in Denmark, still hatches its large brood in the neighborhood of Ribe; indeed it walks quite unconcernedly along the country road and builds its nest on the roofs of the town, even on the town hall itself. Nor is there any reason to fear that it will become extinct through the draining of the land which has been going on in our day, for Ribe river is still so full of water that it winds round and round the old town, where it not only makes picturesque bits of landscape but is put to practical use for driving sundry water mills, while beyond the river there is the lush green marsh which extends way out to the coast.

The town and vicinity have in recent years been protected by dikes, but in former days the ocean was a treacherous neighbor. Sometimes the water would cover the intervening three or four miles of marshy coast, would encompass the city, and try to drown it. On "Ship's



Bridge," the old quay by the river, there is a column with marks showing how far the water went in the various notable floods of the past, and some of these are as high as a man can reach. Even within the cathedral a groove scratched in one of the columns testifies that here, in the middle of the town, the water stood almost six feet high in the nave of the church, during the great flood of 1634.

It requires an effort of the imagination to realize that such violent natural catastrophes ever broke the stillness that broods over Ribe. The ocean seems so far away; the crooked streets and half-timbered houses seem so idyllic; life goes its peaceful way, and when in crossing the cathedral green we meet a man carrying a scythe over his shoulder, or we see a shepherd driving his flock through the narrow streets, we feel that so it must have gone for centuries. Life seems to have stood still in Ribe. The population is exactly the same now as it was four hundred years ago, and, in contrast to most of the cities of Denmark, it is actually decreasing. Therefore modern progress has not had to make its way at the expense of everything old. Ancient buildings have been allowed to remain as they were, and they make the past seem very vivid to us.

To begin with, we are impressed by the fact that the hotel where we live is from 1581, and the post office from the beginning of the sixteenth century, and yet these dates are as nothing compared with the venerable age of the town itself. Ribe figures in history as early as 860 when Ansgar, the Apostle of the North, built there the first church within the boundaries of what is now Denmark. All through the middle ages Ribe was the place where contact with the outside world was most vital and where new impulses first made themselves felt.

Even in material civilization the town was in advance of the rest of Denmark. European fashions came first to Ribe. *"Sir Ivar goes to Ribe town*

*To buy new scarlet cloth for a gown,"* says the ballad.

It was in Ribe, too, that commercial intercourse with other countries was carried on. Jutland steers



MORNING PROMENADE IN RIBE



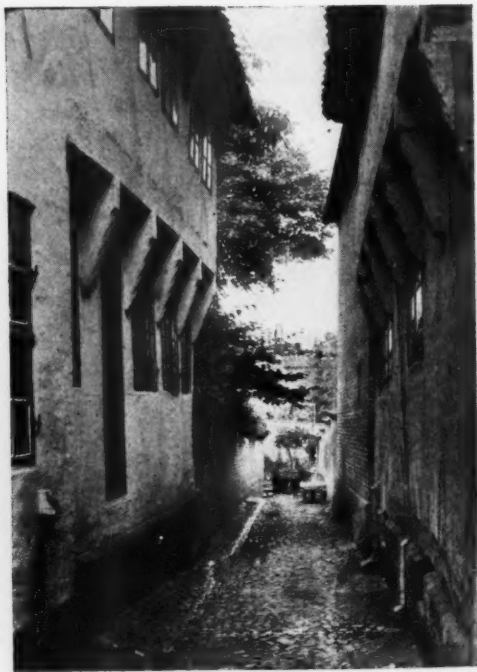
Photograph by Hude

THE COURT YARD OF THE OLD DRUG STORE DATING FROM HOLBERG'S TIME, A STORKS' NEST PERCHED ON THE ADJOINING ROOF



Photograph by Hude

• "TAARNBORG," NOW THE POST OFFICE. ONCE THE HOME OF BISHOP BRORSON



Photograph by Hude

KÖLHOLT'S SLIP, ONE OF THE QUIANT OLD STREETS OF RIBE



Photograph by A. Lauridsen

THE STately CATHEDRAL "OUR LADY OF RIBE" RISING ABOVE THE ROOFS OF THE LITTLE TOWN



Photograph by Hude

TOWERS OF THE CATHEDRAL, IN THE MIDDLE OUR LADY'S, TO THE LEFT THE BELL TOWER



Photograph by Hude

ONE OF THE ODD CORNERS THAT GIVE CHARM AND PICTURESQUENESS TO THE OLD TOWN



Photograph by A. Lauridsen

"WEIS'S HOUSE," A FAMOUS OLD INN FROM THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

were exported by water from Ribe river to western Europe and by land over the Slesvig and Holstein highways to Germany. Trade and shipping laid the foundation of Ribe's greatness. The wealth of the city made possible the brilliant ecclesiastical life for which the town was noted in the middle ages. More than a dozen

churches and monasteries were built, only two of which remain, one being the magnificent cathedral.

Ribe cathedral dates back to the middle of the twelfth century, although its present imposing dimensions are due to later additions. With its five naves, it is the broadest church building in Denmark, but the impression it makes on the beholder is by no means due only or even chiefly to its size. Grace of line is perhaps its most distinguishing characteristic, and is especially apparent in the lightly vaulted, boldly aspiring dome over the choir, an architectural masterpiece that has no equal in northern Europe.

While the cathedral stands unimpaired as one of the



THE INTERIOR OF RIBE CATHEDRAL



most beautiful structures that remain to us from medieval Denmark, the proud royal castle, Riberhus, is gone. Only a green embankment marks the spot where the Valdemars held splendid court, and where the Bohemian princess Dagmar made her entry into her new country, and five years later lay on her bier. Many beautiful poetic legends grew up around the figure of this young queen so beloved of the Danish people, and in general Ribe is a place that is mentioned again and again in the medieval ballads, for there a great and glorious chapter of Danish history was enacted. With the end of the middle ages the glory of Ribe ended too. Nevertheless there are also historic memories of later times bound up with the city.

Many of the country's famous men have either been born or have spent a part of their active years in Ribe. Among them may be mentioned Hans Tausen, the father of the Danish Reformation; Anders Sörensen Vedel, who first began to collect the Danish ballads and translated Saxo; Anders Bording, the first Danish newspaper man; Hans Adolf Brorson, one of our greatest hymn writers; Emil Christian Hansen, whose researches into the principles of fermentation were epoch-making; Niels Finsen, who originated the treatment of certain diseases with light rays, and, finally, the man who perhaps, in the consciousness of Americans, is most closely bound up with Ribe, Jacob Riis, who in *The Old Town* has raised a fine monument to his birthplace. Many others could be mentioned, and the memorial plates affixed to the walls of the houses bring to our minds many names of excellent quality. When the Dannebrog is hoisted to the flag pole of the cathedral on holidays it waves over a town which has been the home of some of Denmark's most distinguished sons.



Photograph by Nørgaard Nielsen

STORKS' NEST BY RIBE RIVER

## Among the Skerries of Stockholm

*By* YNGVE HEDVALL

**W**INTERS are severe in Sweden, and for fully nine months of the year the people who live in cities and have indoor occupations spend most of their time in the house. Yet the Swedes love the open, and when spring comes with its heyday in the blood and its lure of white nights, the intensity of their reaction from the confinement of winter drives them out, to break with city life entirely. In this mood they have created the institution of the summer home. For three months of the year all Stockholm that can afford it moves to the country, to lead the primitive life, bathing, picking flowers or berries and mushrooms, hunting and fishing, until August draws to a close, and the darkening nights with their foreboding chill in the air rouse the desire for snug homes, electric lights, and warm baths. Then the family returns to town in time for the beginning of school and the opening of the theatres.

To own a summer cottage is the aim of every family, and those who can not do that will rent one. Usually it is so near the city that the head of the household, if he has to stay in town to keep the pot boiling, can at least come out every Friday or Saturday night. Fortunately nature has given the Stockholm dweller at the very door of his city a wonderland, a wilderness of islands and skerries with an almost ideal temperature and a charm and beauty well nigh unsurpassed.

The gigantic arm of the Baltic which runs in between Uppland in the north and Södermanland in the south, forming the entrance to Lake Mälaren, is an archipelago with hardly an equal in Europe ex-



STOCKHOLM DWELLERS ON THEIR SUMMER VACATION



THE CENTURY AND A HALF OLD LIGHTHOUSE, ÅR HOLMA AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE SKERRIES

cept in the Finnish archipelago, which could more properly be called its continuation. Within small compass one may count seven thousand islands, reefs, and rocky points of land. From Stockholm to the remotest group of islands, Svenska Högarna, Sweden's outpost in the east, is only fifty and odd miles, while the whole length of the island chain that guards the coast, from the century and a half old lighthouse Årholma in the north, to the mighty beacon Landsort in the south, is only a hundred miles as the crow flies.

Landsort is well known to all who have ever approached Stockholm from the sea—and what a beautiful approach it is! Five channels meander in among the skerries until they reach the long island Rindön which blocks all but two. These are guarded by the two fortresses, Vaxholm and Oscar Fredriksborg, and within them only one passage leads to Stockholm. It is possible with a swift motor boat to go in one day from Årholma, past the whispering pines of Furusund reminiscent of Bellman, past the beautiful palace Östanå where once lived the great Erik Gustaf Boström, Sweden's last premier to exercise real power (after him came parliamentary government), past the attractive little town of Vaxholm, known for its Baltic herring and for its still surviving ancient fortification; make a turn in among the lovely inslands nearest the Swedish capital to see its towers in the dis-



FISHING BOOTHS AT LANDSORT

tance burning under the summer sun; then penetrate between high cliffs into the narrow Skurusund, where Europe's largest concrete bridge lifts its bold arch; swing into the even narrower channel at Stäket, where once two centuries ago the Swedes in the last moment succeeded in saving their capital from the ravages of a Russian army which had just landed; sail over Baggensfjärd with a glimpse of the modern watering place, Saltsjöbaden; and, finally, before the sun has had time to set, reach Dalarö, also an idyllic bathing site, protected from too powerful winds by the wild and sparsely populated Ornö, together with its neighbor Utö, where mines were worked at one time, but where now only an immense open pit and an old windmill testify to the greatness that is gone.

The Stockholm skerries are older than the land on which Stockholm itself is built. Seven thousand years ago, when the mighty ice fields of the glacial epoch had begun to recede toward what is now Lappland, very little of what is now the Mälär valley, the cradle of Sweden, rose above the surface of the water; but the top of the telegraph peak at Ornö and that at Rams Mora, on Värmdö, even then showed their primary formations above the waves. One by one the other islands began to appear. In the main the skerries had taken their present form when Christianity was introduced into the country, but the constantly rising surface of the earth has brought up here and



there first one and then another new rock out of the sea, while other islands have slowly sunk and disappeared. It is the primary rock, granite and gneiss, that makes the foundation, with here and there a stratum of calciferous rock. The skerries are also rich in felspar deposits, which have been utilized commercially. The primary rock lay in deep folds, and when the ice receded, it kept changing these folds, shaping the cliffs into shining, flat ledges, and here and there breaking them into many fantastic shapes. One comes upon vertical precipices and curious caves. One of the caves, according to legend, was once the hiding place of a queen who tried to flee, and is still called "The Queen's Cottage." Its site is on Nåtärö. Huge so-called "kettles" are also found in the rocks, some of them so large that one might "cook peas in them for the whole population of Sweden"—to mention only a few examples of the power and the caprice of natural forces.

Here and there one comes upon a depth of over three hundred feet of water with dangerous under-currents concealed. To make one's way through places like this without nautical charts and expert guidance is almost impossible. For this reason the skerries are considered Stockholm's surest means of protection against attack by sea of an invading enemy.

The flora of the islands may seem monotonous to the one who passes them by quickly. On the outskirts are barren rocks, and among these one may come upon regions where it is only in the shelter of the old gray or red cottages that a potato patch can be made to grow. On the



A SUMMER EVENING AT UTÖ



ONE OF THE TOUGH PINES THAT DEFEY THE STORMS AT  
UTÖ IN THE OUTER SKERRIES

large pilot station, Huvudskär, to the southeast, where fully forty people live, there is not a single tree. Farther inland are sinewy pines, which stubbornly defy the storms, although these have twisted their branches into fantastic forms until at a distance they look like weird witches with fluttering hair, who are shaking their gaunt arms at the skies. Still farther inland the pines grow taller and statelier and meet with companions in the junipers and spruce. From the channels one begins to catch more frequent glimpses of the beautiful white trunks of the birches, and, on approaching Stockholm, there is an increase of other foliage which gives a softer tone to the picture.

The coasts are lined with heavy reeds and alders, and now and then, among the gray and blue, or occasionally red, cliffs, we see a glimpse of heather and goat's rue.

But if the traveler lands even on one of the seemingly barren islands in the edge of the archipelago, he meets with surprise after surprise. Climbing up one of the rocky coasts, he may find the ground descending into a little dale, where he can see a fragrant flower meadow or a cloudberry bog or a leafy grove almost tropical in its luxuriance. The century-old oak casts its shadows on sweet-scented lilies of the valley; strawberries redden in the midst of huge tropical ferns; blueberries and whortleberries twine their branches around the feet of the explorer. The botanist can find islands with typical mountain flora side by side with the flora of the heather, as well as flowers not seen elsewhere in Sweden north of Skåne. Most remarkable of all is the fact that he will find these plants with their varying requirements of climate and soil growing side by side. Lifting his eyes from the ground, he can feast on the beauty of the picture beyond bays and islets,

framed within slender pines, which are bathed by the sunlight or shining with the white foam of the waves. Or, perhaps, ten steps in another direction, a birch grove outlines an idyllic bathing beach with the finest of sand.

Quite naturally a scenery so varied also offers a rich fauna, possibly richer formerly than now, for the abundance of bird life has tempted hunters in large numbers. Only in the outskirts there are still swarms of sea-fowl. There the eagle soars through space. On the larger islands, such as Ornö and Värmdö, the proud elk lives. The fox and the rabbit are also a much desired prey of the hunter. The waters abound in fish, and just as plants of varying kinds grow surprisingly near one another, so the water contains fresh-water fish—the rapacious pike or the dainty perch—as well as flounder and cod. The delicate, silvery herring, a specialty of the skerries, is taken in rich hauls.

The population consists almost entirely of fishermen, who eke out a living by farming and lumbering. Especially in the northern part of the skerries, the so-called Roslagen, timber is cut freely and is then loaded on boats typical of this section, which, with their pleasing round curves and their wide spread of canvas, form a picturesque sight as they come cruising along between the islands. Unfortunately they are doomed to disappear, for the more practical motor-boat is a formidable rival as a time-saver.

The skerries are sparsely populated, and the people who live there



A FISHERMAN'S HOME AT UTÖ

all the year round have something of the crabbiness that characterizes nature itself. These islands, as well as the people, have attracted poets and writers. The one who is usually considered the "discoverer" of the skerries is the poet Elias Sehlstedt, a customs official, who in the fifties and sixties lived at the customs house and lighthouse at Sandhamn, one of the larger communities in the skerries, situated in the gulf at the deepest of the fine channels that lead into Stockholm. In the summer time it is the meeting-place of the yachtsmen during the large regattas. In lyrical idyls Sehlstedt first described the beauties of the skerries. The first writer to portray the people and the natural scenery realistically was Sweden's greatest modern writer, Strindberg. He lived there for several summers, sometimes at Furusund, sometimes at Dalarö, but his favorite haunt was the beautiful Kymmendö, beyond Ornö. On these two islands he has laid the scene of his novel, *Hemsöborna*, describing life in the skerries. In this work and in his collection, *Skärkarlslif*, he is more objective than in any other of his many writings. In later years the cartoonist and writer, Albert Engström, editor of the humorous publication *Strix*, has recorded by word and picture life more especially in the northern skerries. Many artists, among them Prince Eugen and the world renowned Anders Zorn, have found there wonderful subjects which have made wonderful paintings.

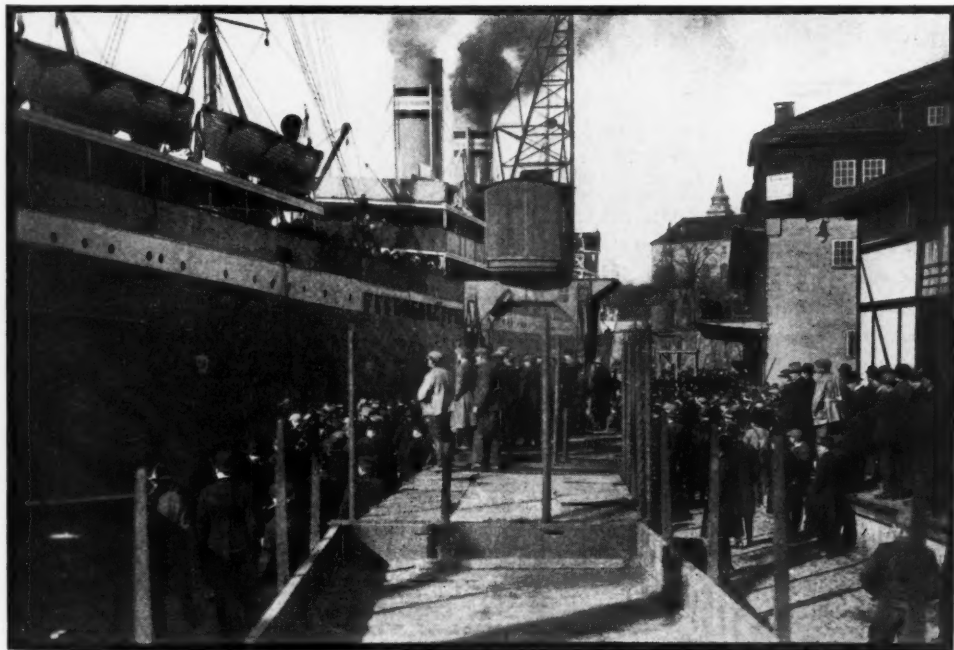


A FISHERMAN OF THE SKERRIES



## Embarking from Oslo

LIKE a swan among sparrows the huge "America boat" with its familiar red, white, and blue bands around the funnels, rises above the tugs and fishing-boats that dot the harbor. From its high deck one may look past the docks and the city far away to the hills that encircle Oslo in their embrace. Almost right above one is Akershus, once a formidable defense capable of breaking the point of an enemy's attack, now, with its low, gray walls and pointed tower, a friendly bit of the landscape that holds the eye of the voyager after the city has faded in the distance. From its foot the waters of the fjord stretch their glittering path, while island beyond island and headland beyond headland are milestones on the way to the open sea.



*Photographs by Otto S. Ruud.*

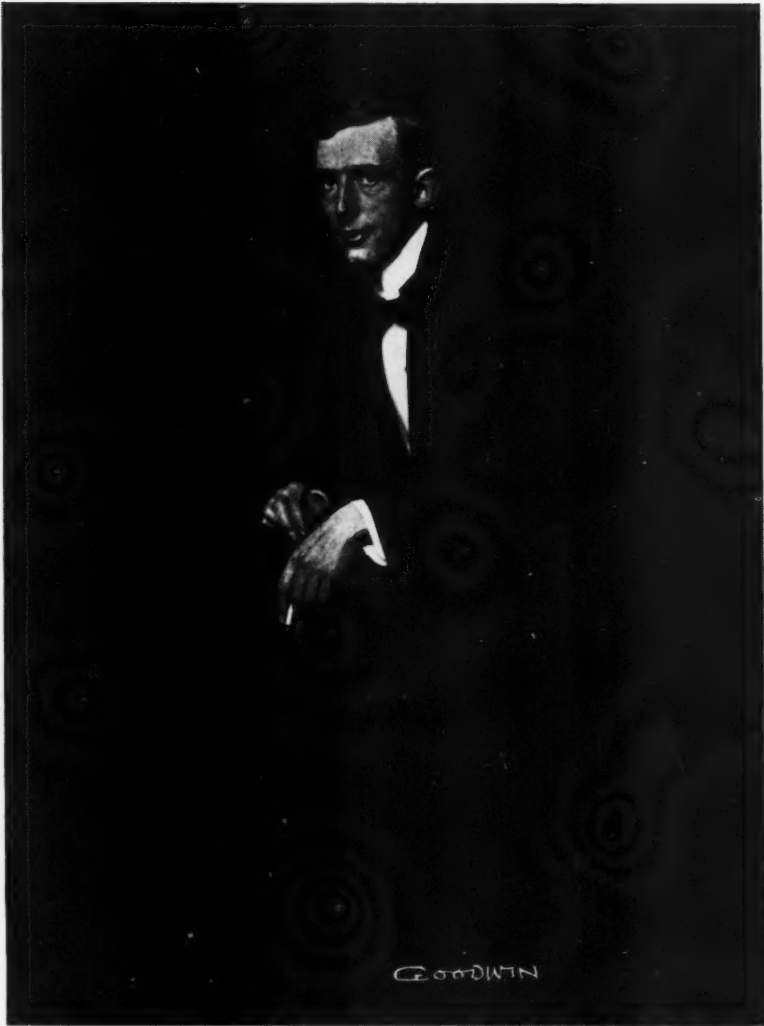
# CURRENT EVENTS



## U.S.A.

¶ Although President Coolidge made it known that he did not consider the controversy over the Mexican oil laws, as affecting American ownership, a subject for arbitration, the United States Senate by a unanimous vote declared in favor of such action in order to avert what threatened to become a diplomatic situation of dangerous proportions. Many educators, churchmen, and labor leaders also favor arbitration as a means for settling the Mexican controversy. ¶ By a vote of 48 to 33 the Senate refused Frank L. Smith, Senator-designate from Illinois, the right to take the oath of office pending an examination into certain money transactions that might affect his eligibility as Senator. ¶ Whatever protective measures Great Britain may take with regard to its nationals in China, up to the present time the American Government is not considering joint action with any other power there, but will do its best to protect its own interests in the war-ridden country of the far East. ¶ American passive intervention in Nicaragua appears to have had the effect of reducing the strife between the revolutionaries and the government to a state where some compromise may be reached that will bring peace to this Central American republic. Latin American newspapers as a whole, however, express the view that Washington's attitude runs counter to true Pan-Americanism. ¶ The United States-Panama Treaty leads the *London Times* to remark that it does not fit in entirely with the League of Nations idea, and that while the United States is not a member of that body, yet the treaty will have the effect of being embarrassing to other countries. ¶ With

regard to the United States and Latin America, Senator Borah declared in the Senate that the Monroe doctrine in his opinion was not at all involved in the Nicaraguan situation which, he said, grew out of "as pronounced an act of imperialism as any that had ever disgraced any nation with which we were willing to exchange criticism." ¶ The nominations for Presidential candidates who are to try issues in 1928 are already casting shadows before them, and the arrival in New York of William G. McAdoo gave fresh currency to the belief that the defeated candidate for the Democratic nomination in 1924 would once more enter the field. This is looked upon by the backers of Governor Smith for that honor as presaging another contest in the convention, with the dry and wet issues strongly to the fore as the main points. ¶ The committee of the Anti-Saloon League of America plans to checkmate any wet candidate who may be put forward for the Presidential nomination and prevent incorporation of a wet plank in either major party platform in 1928. ¶ Arthur Ponsonby, Labor member of the British Parliament and formerly Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the McDonald Government, arrived in the United States, where he is lecturing on peace topics before various societies interested in the maintenance of world peace. ¶ In the death of Edward Page Mitchell, once editor in chief of the *New York Sun*, American journalism loses one of its foremost representatives, a man who through his courtesy and his consideration in dealing with young and aspiring writers endeared himself to all. Mr. Mitchell's association with the *Sun* covered a period of more than half a century.



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PRINCE WILHELM OF SWEDEN, WHO IS LECTURING IN THE UNITED STATES

¶ Prince Wilhelm, second son of the King of Sweden, has impressed Americans with the same graciousness and simplicity of demeanor that made his elder brother so popular; but while the Crown Prince was here on an official mission, representing the King and people of Sweden, Prince Wilhelm has made it clear that he is here in a purely private capacity, as lecturer, writer, and observer. His tour, which will include about forty cities, began January 18

with a lecture in the Town Hall in New York, followed by an Explorers' luncheon in the Hotel Commodore. The lecture dealt with his exploring trip to the Mountains of the Moon in Central Africa and was illustrated with unique and beautiful moving pictures. ¶ The phrase "hunting with a camera" does not in his case merely mean taking pictures as an incident to a hunting trip. It means literally "bagging" game in the form of living pictures instead of

dead carcasses. While the prince admitted that he had killed much big game, including a number of lions, he does not wish to exterminate game, and kills only in self-defense or to secure a limited number of specimens. Hunting with a camera involves as careful stalking and patient waiting as hunting to kill, and under conditions perhaps even more dangerous. The moving pictures of the animals of the jungle—lions, zebras, hippopotamus, and many others—sufficiently bore witness to the skill and courage of the prince and his comrades. ¶ During his stay in New York Prince Wilhelm was the guest of the president of the American-Scandinavian Foundation at a luncheon, January 10, at the Harvard Club. In welcoming him, Mr. Leach spoke of how much more difficult it is for royalty than for ordinary people to make a living as Prince Wilhelm is doing by his work as author and lecturer.



## SWEDEN

¶ The Riksdag was solemnly opened on January 10. In his speech from the throne the King expressed gratification at the cordial reception which had been accorded the Crown Prince and Crown Princess everywhere on their trip around the world, and dwelt especially on the welcome extended to them in the United States. In dealing with new bills to be presented to the Riksdag at its present session he mentioned one for the improvement of the school system and one for preserving peace on the labor market. ¶ The debate on the budget, which as usual was the first encounter of the government with the Riksdag, was comparatively tame and uneventful. The budget is marked throughout by a rigid economy, so rigid that it can not be adhered to for many years without the serious loss of incalculable values which can never be restored. The

principle of the minister of finance has been that the current income of the State must cover its current expenses including interest on loans. As the revenue from the existing taxes can not be expected to increase, it is proposed to levy new taxes on tobacco, automobiles, and lotteries. The budget balanced at 709,000,000 kronor, which is 36,000,000 less than last year. One item which caused surprise was that of the military defense, which was reduced by only two million kronor instead of 12 million as had been promised. Naturally there are many who ask whether this comparatively small saving was sufficient to justify the very real decrease in the efficiency of the defenses. ¶ The famous explorer Sven Hedin, who for more than twenty years has not engaged in exploration, has started for China to begin a journey of research in central Asia. It is agreed between him and the Chinese government that any valuable collection that he is able to make is to be divided between the museums of China and those of Sweden. ¶ Stockholm has in the past year increased its population by 11,000 persons, bringing the total up to 437,000. This unprecedented increase is not, however, due to the birth rate, which is low throughout Sweden, but to the fact that so many people have moved in to the capital from other parts of the country. ¶ Owned jointly by the Swedish Government and the Grängesberg Company, the ore mines in Lappland, located at Kiruna, and Malmberget, near Gällivare, are showing a steady gain in output. Together the two mines produced nearly six million tons of ore in 1926. Of this amount more than four million tons were shipped from Narvik on the coast of Norway, where the port is open all the year around. Although the existence of iron ore in Lapland has been known for two hundred years, it remained for the employment of the Thomas process to make it commercially profitable.





## NORWAY

¶ By the death of Johan Castberg, which took place December 24, Norway lost one of her most remarkable politicians. Castberg, who was born in 1862, had been member of the Storting since 1900 and twice member of the Government in the Gunnar Knudsen administrations, as Minister of Justice 1908-1910, and Minister of Social Affairs 1913-14. He was leader of the extreme left of the Radical party, an enthusiastic and extremely energetic champion of social reform and prohibition. Not satisfied with the Radicalism of the old "Venstre" he formed his own party, "The Radical People's Party" which, however, met with small success and has only two representatives in the present Storting. The whole Norwegian press is unanimous in paying tribute to Castberg's strong personality, sincere patriotism and unselfish devotion to his political duties. ¶ The Storting was formally opened by the King on January 13. In the speech from the throne, which was read by the King, the economic questions occupied the most prominent place. It was emphasized that the Government considers its chief task to be the restoration of the public finances. Drastic reductions will be effected in the expenses of the various State services. The new estimates amount to 384,000,000 kroner, a net reduction of 50,000,000 kroner, compared to the present financial year. The salaries of the civil servants will be reduced by about 12 and one-half million. Some of the reductions proposed by the Government, particularly those affecting the elementary schools and the public works, railways, roads, etc., meet with strong opposition from

the Radical and Labor parties. ¶ Mr. C. J. Hambro, the Conservative leader, was elected president of the Storting in the place of Mr. Jahren, who retired owing to ill-health. Mr. Johan Ludwig Mowinkel, the ex-Premier, was elected vice-president. In the Lagting Mr. Flakstad, Conservative, and Mr. Thune of the Farmers' Party were elected president and vice-president respectively, while in the Odelsting Mr. Aarstad, Radical, was re-elected president and Mr. Ameln, Conservative, vice-president. ¶ A stir has been caused by the conversion to Roman Catholicism of Lars Eskeland, the well known pedagogue and religious author. Mr. Eskeland is headmaster of a private high school at Voss. The school has for some years had a State subsidy, and high church Lutherans demand that the subsidy should be withdrawn if Mr. Eskeland is to continue as headmaster. The Minister of Church and Education has now asked Mr. Eskeland to retire from the leadership of the school and only act as teacher. The decision of the authorities is strongly criticized by the leading Conservative and Liberal papers as irreconcilable with the principle of religious liberty. ¶ The Institute of Comparative Cultural Research at Oslo is preparing an expedition to the Kola peninsula in Russia with the object of studying the population from an anthropological, linguistic, and folkloristic point of view. Dr. Fridtjof Nansen is leading the preparations, while Dean Kr. Nissen will be leader of the actual expedition. Among those who intend to take part are Professors A. W. Brögger, Konrad Nilsen, and Kr. Schreiner. It is the intention to start from Finmark in February, 1928. The expedition will partly be financed by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund in New York.





## DENMARK

¶ With the Liberal party assuming power, there appears to be a general agreement throughout the country to give the new régime a chance to make good its pre-election promises, and not to hamper its actions by too much criticism, even on the part of the opposition. Danish foreign affairs are likely to feel the good effect of Dr. Moltesen's relations with statesmen in other countries, and the press abroad voices gratification that the post of Foreign Minister has gone to him. ¶ As for the Premier, Madsen-Mygdal, the farming interests are keenly watchful of what may be done for them with one of their own class heading the new Danish Government. Especially does this apply to South Jutland, where the serious economic crisis will necessitate measures of extraordinary forcefulness to satisfy the population. ¶ The Conservative party as yet holds itself aloof from any direct participation in affairs where the Liberals are planning to go ahead, and the Radicals are even less desirous of joining any parliamentary move for co-operation. As for the Social Democrats, who see themselves relegated to the rear with their defeat at the recent election, their attitude remains candidly that of opposition. ¶ Former Premier Stauning is out with a defense of his cabinet's administration of the country's affairs, and he credits the Social Democratic party with having brought order out of the financial chaos, by a reduction of the national debt to the extent of some 60,000,000 kroner and a general improvement in the economic status of the country. ¶ With the entrance of 1927, a number of Danish industrial leaders gave their opinions as to what might be expected in the new year. Ernst Meyer, presi-

dent of the Wholesalers' Association, is somewhat optimistic as to the future, but states that the past few years have been trying in the extreme. ¶ Literary Denmark is highly agitated by the controversy raging in the press over the translation which is to be made of the Icelandic sagas. With Gunnar Gunnarsson and Johannes V. Jensen heading a group that is to give a more modern version of these sagas than any obtaining to date, other noted writers and scholars, headed by Fru Lis Jacobsen, declare that no new translations are necessary, but that the existing versions cover the field fully. ¶ The question of what may be done to improve the Royal Danish Theatre building has gained renewed interest with the Copenhagen public which looks to the new administration as bound to do something in that direction. While this matter is being discussed, a new project is being considered with the view of turning the large Axelborg structure into an opera house. ¶ Theatrical affairs are very close to the heart of every resident in the Danish capital, and the death of so sterling an actor as Peter Jerndorf, in the 84th year of his age, comes near to being a national loss. As a member of the Royal Danish Theatre, Mr. Jerndorf was one of the greatest character actors in the history of the Scandinavian stage for nearly two generations. ¶ While on a visit to New York, Fru Johanne Rambush was informed by telegram from Copenhagen that she had been chosen a member of the Danish Landsting. The Danish Minister to Sweden, Eric Scavenius, had resigned as a member of that body, and the Radicals then selected Fru Rambush to take his place. Fru Rambush has been active in Danish politics for over twenty years and from 1907 to 1915 was president of the Women's National Association.



### SWEDEN AND AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

*Sweden and the American Revolution.*  
By Adolph B. Benson. Distributor,  
N. G. Sahlin, New Haven, 1926. Price,  
\$3.00.

PROFESSOR BENSON has summoned from the rolls of those who fought for American independence all whom he could identify as Swedes. It is no corporal's guard, but a noble company of sixty-four young men, officers with our French allies on land and, especially, on the sea. It is appropriate that they should be remembered by name now, after one hundred and fifty years of independence have justified the cause they aided. To trace these men, despite destruction and confusion of records, to discover them under names distorted often in foreign rolls, and to compile from countless histories, biographical lexicons, personal letters, and state archives an account of the life of each has required phenomenal zeal and laborious research. Professor Benson has drawn many of his most interesting facts from the frequent letters of the Swedish Ambassador in Paris, Count de Creutz, to his King, Gustav III, letters which show in both ambassador and king a direct, personal, and even fatherly interest in the exploits of their young countrymen in arms. He has shown these soldiers against the background of their country's policy, and has not neglected to explain how naval strategy far from the shoreline of the American colonies influenced the contest for independence.

Those of us who are accustomed to read only the American versions of the

great war in which England lost her first empire, are apt to forget that the war was not fought exclusively on the American continent, and to overlook the tremendous significance of the "Armed Neutrality" with which even those nations of Europe who did not take up arms, opposed England's domination. In a confederation of the Northern powers, which it appears was led by Sweden consistently, Denmark, Russia, Prussia, and Holland made common cause against British preeminence on the seas, convoying their own vessels in trade with America and her allies, quietly admitting American vessels to their ports. As the treaties of armed neutrality gave comfort and material aid to the American colonies in the struggle for independence, so the famous treaty between Franklin and Creutz in 1783 gave the new nation its first formal encouragement by a foreign power.

Count de Creutz held the critical position in the scheme of Swedish participation in the American Revolution. It was he who placed the Swedish officers in French service, who reported their activities to Gustav III, who saw to it that they were rewarded by France and by Sweden, who in the period of Armed Neutrality informed his government of the progress of the war, and who at its conclusion negotiated the treaty with the United States. Perhaps it is not too much to call him the greatest contender for the American cause, although his work was all within the proper province of the Swedish emissary at the French capital. Among those Swedish officers who actually engaged in the American conflict, none were more chivalrous and venturesome than Axel von Fersen, "until recently the most illustrious Swede that ever came to the United States," and Curt von Stedingk, both of whom attained the rank of colonel. These two are singled out by Professor Benson for deserved, and espe-

cially honorable mention, and some of the most human and stimulating passages of the book are in the quotations chosen from their letters.

No account of Sweden and the American Revolution would be complete without mention of the descendants of the Delaware Colony. By carefully analyzing statistics accepted by historians who have written on the national origins of Washington's troops, Professor Benson has demonstrated the unreliability of these statistics and has raised, for others to answer, questions of the part played by some fifteen to eighteen thousand American children of that Colony. Only the careers of the two most illustrious of these, John Hanson and John Morton, are described at any length. But the whole book stands as a worthy memorial to the friendship of Sweden for our little republic of a hundred and fifty years ago.

J. C.

#### COMPARING RACES

Institute for Comparative Research in Human Culture. Series A, No. 1. Four Introductory Lectures. Harvard University Press, 1925, fifty cents.

SINCE the above volume appeared the Harvard Press has already announced a number of publications bearing the imprint of the new Institute in Oslo, of which Dr. Fredrik Stang, Rector of the University, is sponsor and chairman. Among these is a new work by Otto Jespersen and—at last, we are thankful to note—the collected writings of the great Norwegian folklorist, the late Moltke Moe.

In this introductory volume Dr. Stang explains that the Institute will lay chief stress on language and begin its investigations with the culture of the Lapps and the languages of the Caucasus. Besides language, Dr. Stang mentions among the functions of the Institute comparative

study in the following fields: religion, law, ethnology, archæology, folklore, sociology. One wonders why, for example, he does not mention morals, after the publication of Westermarck's *Origin and Development of Moral Ideas*. A study of the conflicting moral standards of different races is surely as enlightening to comparative research in human culture as the pursuit of archæology.

Dr. Stang predicts that these comparative studies will more and more tend to exhibit the central unity of man and the human mind, and the futility of violent disagreements over non-essentials. Perhaps he is right, and again perhaps not. In opposition we can point to Malinowski's testimony that certain Melanesian words elude translation into English for the astounding reason that the ideas for which they are symbols—the very texture of the New Guinean mind, particularly when dealing with social concepts—are practically unintelligible to the European. If, then, Dr. Stang proves a false prophet and comparative study reveals an alarming *disunity* in the human mind in different races, the Oslo Institute will none the less perform a service in delimiting these national idiosyncrasies and clearing the way for international conduct that will become increasingly less idiotic.

The above is a large order, as they say on Wall Street, but the Institute has the brains if it can find the funds. Already it has been modestly but comfortably endowed by both the Norwegian Government and the Oslo municipality. May the new Institute grow in power as it has begun in wisdom. May the great foundations for international scholarship that have their seats in New York and draw their resources from our oil wells and our steel mills reach out to welcome this sister institution in the North and its noble program for a new renaissance of world humanism.

H. G. LEACH.

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**Associates:** All who are in sympathy with the aims of the Foundation are invited to become Associates. **Regular Associates**, paying \$3.00 annually, receive the REVIEW. **Sustaining Associates**, paying \$10.00 annually, receive the REVIEW and CLASSICS. **Life Associates**, paying \$200.00 once for all, receive all publications.

## Selections from the Annual Report of 1926

### The Foundation's Fifteenth Year

THE WORD "Foundation" to many people connotes opulence—a large endowment, means assured for all undertakings, luxurious offices, and a highly paid staff. The American-Scandinavian Foundation has lived a life of no such magnificence, but has made its way laboriously and with painstaking economy. So far as possible, the officers of this Foundation have striven to make its various works self-supporting. Never have they been more successful in this than during 1926 when, besides the University Fellowships, they placed thirty-five self-supporting industrial Fellowships, a unique accomplishment in international education. Despite the limitations of a modest endowment, the Foundation already has taken five hundred and more students back and forth across the North Atlantic; has published twenty-seven volumes of SCANDINAVIAN CLASSICS in English translation, and five MONOGRAPHS; has carried the AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW successfully through Volume XIV, giving the Scandinavian countries a journal respected

among American publications; and has attracted Associate Members throughout the United States and the countries of the North. All this has been done on an income from endowment of only twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars a year.

It was in 1911 that Niels Poulson established the endowment yielding this sum. After eleven years, when the present Secretary came into office, we found ourselves obligated to carry on a work, the annual expense of which was \$90,000; and yet there had been no addition to the endowment. In the budget prepared for 1927 it is estimated that \$136,000 will be expended for the purposes of the Foundation; and in this no allowance is made for the independent budgets of the Chapters of the Foundation in American communities or for the quite distinct American societies in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. But even now, the endowment of the Foundation has not been increased.

In 1926 the Hecla Iron Works, our founder's business, became unable to make the payments of interest on the



mortgage which constitutes three-fifths of our all-too-small endowment. The last contracts were completed by the company, and the factory stood empty. There is not, and has never been any serious question of the ultimate security of our principal, more than covered by the real estate, buildings, and equipment of the Hecla Iron Works; but it became evident that until these assets were rendered liquid the Foundation would be without income from that source, and that at least a year might be expected to elapse before the principal could be recovered and reinvested. Our problem was to finance the Foundation through that year. In December we submitted a statement of our situation to two great American institutions devoting their means to the cause of education, the Carnegie Corporation and the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. We asked them, knowing the work of our Foundation, to join in an act of neighborly generosity to make good our prospective deficit of \$16,000 for the year. The Rockefeller Memorial already has appropriated \$5,000 for the purpose; and the Carnegie Corporation has authorized a grant not to exceed \$8,000.

The work of the Foundation has shown itself so valuable in improving our acquaintance with the Northern kingdoms of Europe, in bringing our scholars and theirs together in the service of knowledge, in conducting between these peoples and the American the export and import of ideal things, that it deserves to be given somewhat greater security. New and separate endowments should be placed beside that of Niels Poulson, the Danish-American donor, to compose the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

#### Fellowships

*"I regard no man perfect in knowledge unless he has thoroughly learned and mastered the customs of the place where he is sojourning."*—THE KING'S MIRROR.

For the academic year 1926-1927, twenty-four University Fellows with stipends and seven Honorary Fellows were appointed. Twenty-seven of the Industrial Fellows had been selected at the time of the writing of this report; and before the close of the present academic year the complete panel of these Industrial Fellows will be filled from Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Thus the total number of Fellows studying under the auspices of the Foundation this year will be brought to fifty-nine.

Several new names were added to the list of University Fellowship donors this year; Captain A. P. Lundin gave \$1,000 for a Fellow to be sent to Sweden, and the John Ericsson Society of New York, of which he is president, subscribed a Fellowship in the name of the great Swedish engineer for a Fellow to come to America. Mr. and Mrs. John G. Bergquist provided two Fellowships, one for an American and one for a Swedish student. The New York Chapter of the Foundation and its president, Mr. G. Thomson Parker, made up the Grips-holm Fellowship. In Norway, Mr. Throne Holst and the Norsk Aluminum Company gave Fellowships. In Sweden, Mr. K. O. Bonnier provided a Fellowship for the study of American literature. Through the president of Danmarks Amerikanske Selskab, Kammerherre Clan, two new Fellowships were subscribed in Denmark by the Carlsberg Co. and Grosserer Societet.

No endowment is required for the Industrial Fellowships, nor is philanthropy invoked. The firms who receive our appointees, a notable list [published in the February REVIEW], provide the stipends, normally \$1,500 for the year, as salaries.

The Industrial Fellowships for Swedish students were announced a year ago. During 1926 the panel was completed

for Denmark and for Norway, ten Fellowships being offered in each country. Thirty and more in all, at stipends of \$1,500 each! A new student budget totalling at least \$45,000 annually.

#### The Review

*"That excellent publication of the organization, the SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW which so effectively and so accurately circulates information about our Northern countries, their art and literature."*—CROWN PRINCE GUSTAF ADOLF

The articles in the REVIEW are not for a moment's enjoyment only; they have a permanent value and are referred to daily by those who seek special information about the Scandinavian countries. Among our authors in 1926 are to be found the Danish explorer Knud Rasmussen, Johan Bojer, Erik Wettergren, Karl Asplund, Hans Christian Andersen by Himself, Jacob Breda Bull, Sven Hedin, Julius Clausen, Thomas Olesen Lökken, Hans E. Kinck, Märta af Sillén, Alexander Bugge, Jörgen Bukdahl, Premier Gunnar Knudsen, and Fredrik Böök.

#### Books

*"Fruits, cereals, stuffed animals and birds, and fabrics of all sorts tempt the importer. The one thing that is rarely exhibited is a book."*—G. B. SHAW.

The Foundation has taken as its duty to present in the CLASSICS those authors who might otherwise escape the eyes of America. Hans Christian Andersen is a perennial in American literature; so frequently are his Tales published and republished by commercial houses that most of us have forgotten that these are translations. Andersen is one of our own. However, there is one volume by him which has long been ignored and which it is now appropriate for the Foundation to publish. This becomes in our series *Hans Christian Andersen by Himself*.

In the *Norse Mythology* P. A. Munch made a correlation of the legends of the Northern world just as those of Greek antiquity are collected and explained in Bullfinch's *Age of Fable*. It is a tribute to the enduring quality of his work that the authority of our day, Magnus Olsen, chose to bring up to date the older historian's text rather than attempt a new study. The result is our twenty-seventh volume of CLASSICS, translated from the Norwegian by one of our former Fellows, Professor S. B. Hustvedt.

#### The Bureau of Information

In recent years no events have attracted more public interest to the Scandinavian countries than have the visit of the Crown Prince of Sweden and the unveiling of the John Ericsson statue in Washington on May 29, 1926, in the presence of the President of the United States and the chief officers of our government. For the erection of the statue many officers and members of the Foundation have worked for years, and in the entertainment of the Crown Prince their work was likewise valuable. On June 10 he was the guest of the Trustees at dinner at the University Club, and accepted the election as an Honorary Member of the Board of Trustees.

Among the informal emissaries of good will to whom the Foundation has extended some service are to be mentioned Professor Jacob S. Worm-Müller of Oslo and Professor H. V. Munch-Petersen, Administrator of the University of Copenhagen, who came at the invitation of the Rockefeller Memorial Foundation; Knud Rasmussen and Roald Amundsen who addressed our New York and California Chapters respectively; Professor A. S. Ostenfeld of the Polytechnical Institute in Copenhagen; President John Grier Hibben of Princeton University; Dr. C. R. Mann of the American Council on Education; Morse W. Cartwright, Director of the Ameri-

can Adult Education Association; the members of the Physicians' Study Tour and of the American delegation to the World Conference of Foresters.

The Bureau continues with increasing value its services to clubs, associations, and schools, drafting programs, preparing bibliographies, lending stereopticon slides and lecture notes.

#### Recommendations

Again we remind our annual members that Life Associates, of whom we now have sixty, are endowers of the Foundation in that their contributions of two hundred dollars each are assigned to the capital funds of the Foundation.

It is to be hoped that before the sixteenth annual report is written, we shall have restored our income from that part of the endowment involved in the Hecla Iron Works, with a consequent diversification of our investments. But the Foundation will not be in a secure position, its work guaranteed for the future, until the endowment is increased. Some parts of our work, notably the interchange of University students, can never be self-supporting. It is a duty for the Foundation to find endowers among those who desire permanently to memorialize, as Niels Poulson did, their affection for the countries of the North and their faith that these countries and America are natural allies for all times in the service of knowledge and human good.



#### The Springfield Chapter

The Editor of the *REVIEW* was the guest of the new Springfield (Ohio) Chapter and presented its charter at the first meeting of the New Year, held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. P. F. Bloomhardt, January 6. In addressing the Chapter, she spoke of how the various

chapters work out their own problems and find the work best suited to them. The Springfield Chapter had been started under singularly happy auspices, as a group of neighbors, having congenial tastes, living near enough together to meet easily, and counting in its membership a large proportion of men and women capable of making vital and individual contributions. In being so largely composed of non-Scandinavians it fulfilled a very important part of the Foundation's program of linking the different racial groups and making Scandinavian culture a part of American life. As a possible object for the work of the Chapter it was suggested that its members use their influence to build up a strong collection of Scandinavian books either in the public library or in that of Wittenberg College.

The president, Dr. Martin L. Reymert, spoke of the "other side" of the Foundation's work, of how appreciation of American culture had increased in the Scandinavian countries in recent years, which he attributed largely to the influence of the Foundation. The usual informal discussion which is a delightful feature of the Springfields Chapter's activities, and sometimes continues till the small hours, took as its starting point the lecture on Scandinavian literature given by the Editor of the *REVIEW* to the student body at Wittenberg College that same morning. The lecture had been arranged by the Chapter through its energetic president.

#### Fellows' Activities

Dr. Martin L. Reymert, formerly of the University of Oslo, and Fellow of the Foundation from Norway, 1916-17, now head of the Department of Psychology and director of the laboratory at Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, has been appointed editorial representative for Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland, on the new

monthly international publication *Psychological Abstracts*. This publication is financed by the National Research Council of Washington, D. C. The Editor-in-Chief is Professor Walter S. Hunter of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and the sub-editors for all the various countries have been chosen among psychologists of international standing.

#### Fellow in Literature

The mysterious adventures in the United States of Carl Jonas Love Almquist, whose romantic writings are believed to have inspired some of Selma Lagerlöf's work, are to be traced by a modern literary critic, Dr. Ruben G. Berg, who comes to America in January as a Fellow of the Foundation. Dr. Berg, who has already been in the United States once and written a book about its recent literature, will also continue his studies of the younger American writers, being the winner of a special Fellowship established for the purpose by the Swedish publisher, Albert Bonnier.

About what Almquist did in the United States or where he lived very little is known in Sweden. His romanticism and unconventional ideas had aroused bitter opposition in Sweden and in June, 1851, he left the country, sailing via London for New York. Under various names, among others, "Gustavi," he lived in various parts of the country, supporting himself as a tutor and hack writer, until the fall of 1865 when he returned to Europe. The following year he died in Bremen. Dr. Berg is particularly anxious to get in touch with people who knew this brilliant, but misunderstood and unfortunate writer.



## NORTHERN LIGHTS

#### The St. Olaf Choir

The St. Olaf Choir has recently visited New York, singing to capacity audiences in the Metropolitan Opera House and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

In an editorial entitled *Singing vs. Football* the New York *World* not long ago asked some one to explain St. Olaf College of Northfield, Minnesota, "where the celebrated choir is the major activity on the campus. Students, it is set forth, hold it a greater honor to 'make' the choir than to make the football team; so that many a lad of beefy brawn has been lost to the athletic squad if he happened also to possess a fine voice. And somehow one has a great curiosity to see this place of polyphonic endeavor, and in lieu of seeing it, to hear more about it. Is the atmosphere different from that which one breathes at more orthodox places? It must be. Music, especially the austere music written for choirs, has a monkish, old-fashioned smack: it is far removed from pep, college spirit, and organized cheering. At this place, perhaps, with its thousand students and remote site, is to be found that cloistered quiet which one always associates with institutions of learning, and never finds. Is there a loyal alumnus in these parts who can give first-hand testimony?"

We wish there were space to quote in full the prompt reply from a "loyal alumnus" in the person of Ansten Anstensen, which the *World* published a few days later. In it there is set forth most lucidly St. Olaf's genesis and backgrounds, racial and religious. He presents a picture of college life which does not exclude "pep, college spirit, and organized cheering." In fact, except for a greater simplicity, it is much more akin to the robust normal of other colleges than the "cloistered quiet" of the *World's* imagination.



### Swedes in America

The second and concluding volume of *Svenskarna i Amerika* has now appeared from the press of *Historiska Förlaget* in Stockholm. While the first was largely a presentation of historical backgrounds, this volume deals with contemporary Swedish-Americans and the influences that are molding their lives and works. The first chapters are devoted to the everyday life of the farmer and forester, fisherman and fruitgrower, and other workers with their domestic backgrounds here and there. Upon this follows articles on the church, the schools, art, literature, and the press, charities, associations, politics, and citizenship. It is, in short, an inclusive portrayal of Swedes in America. With its authoritative, composite authorship, its discriminating editing, good illustrations, and attractive appearance, it should find a cordial reception both in America and in the homeland.

### New Icelandic Sagas

In *Saga Islendinga i Nordur-Dakota* Thorstina S. Jackson continues the chronicling of Icelandic family history in America, begun by her father, Thorleifur Jackson. Two volumes on Icelanders in the United States and Canada were published by him a few years ago, and much material had been gathered for a third which he did not live to finish. After his death his daughter assumed the task of completing the unfinished work, and the present volume on the Icelanders in North Dakota has been carried out in harmony with the earlier books. This last is a large volume of 474 pages attractively printed, profusely illustrated, and well indexed. The introduction is by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and a sympathetic tribute to Thorleifur Jackson has been contributed by Percy Grainger.

### Television

At a recent meeting of the St. Louis

section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Dr. E. F. W. Alexanderson, consulting engineer of the General Electrical Company and the Radio Corporation of America, gave an address on television. Readers of the REVIEW may recall an article on this great Swedish-American inventor which appeared last year. The new invention will make it possible to send moving pictures by means of radio photography across the Atlantic. The *New York Times* is moved to comment editorially on this coming "in prophecy of actual achievement the almost instantaneous flight of images in motion across seas and continents." The editorial is from the hand of one well grounded both in Holy Writ and the Classics—the sources of many felicitous citations, with which he indicates that what we once accepted as poetical statements are now becoming scientific facts. We quote the concluding paragraph: "Science's search will continue till it can say as Job did at the end of the greatest interview in all literature between man and the Voice of the Whirlwind:

*'I have heard of thee by the hearing ear,  
But now mine eye seeth thee.'*"

### Islandica

In these days of a revival of interest in maps of all descriptions it is a happy choice on the part of Dr. Halldór Hermannsson, the editor of *Islandica*, to devote the annual volume for 1926 to *Two Cartographers, Gudbrandur Thorlaksson and Thordur Thorlaksson*. The scholarly account of these sixteenth and seventeenth century map-makers is embellished with eleven plates, five of them being folded maps abounding in quaint and curious details.

### Erland Nordenskiöld

In Dr. Erland Nordenskiöld, Sweden has an explorer and scholar who has added much to the World's knowledge of the native tribes of South America

and their material culture. Dr. Norden-skiöld is professor of ethnography at the University of Göteborg and also director of the Museum there. He has lectured in several European cities and recently in America at the University of California at Berkeley. Many years of his life have been devoted to the study of the Indians of Patagonia, Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia, and he has brought back much material from these wilds to the Göteborg Museum.

Last December he embarked on a voyage to Columbia, South America, to make further investigations to be incorporated in his series entitled *Comparative Ethnographical Studies*. The series, six volumes of which had appeared by 1925 in Sweden, as well as in England from the Oxford University Press, has received the prize of the L. Angrand Foundation for American history and archaeology.

#### The Nansen Postage Stamp

The League of Nations has begun the issue of postage stamps for its official business. That of the *Bureau International du Travail* has a stamp of its own for the benefit of Armenian and Russian refugees, and the central design of this stamp is a portrait of Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, as a tribute to his great services as chief commissioner in assisting these refugees.

#### Fostering International Relations

Two of the great peace awards of the past year are in a sense doing double duty, the original recipients retaining the accompanying honors while passing on the money awards to the endowment funds of institutions engaged in the furthering of peace and international understanding. Vice-President Charles G. Dawes, who was joint recipient with Sir Austen Chamberlain of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1925, has given his share, about \$15,775, to the Walter Hines Page

School of International Relations at Johns Hopkins University. The \$25,000 which Elihu Root received from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, in recognition of his services to peace through justice, have been given as the nucleus of an endowment to the magazine *Foreign Affairs*, a quarterly review published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

#### A New English-Norwegian Dictionary

An attractive and convenient little pocket dictionary has just been issued by *Nordisk Tidende* (the Norwegian News Company) of Brooklyn. It is in two parts, one English-Norwegian, the other Norwegian-English, and each division contains about 12,500 words. It has been revised and corrected by Juul Dieserud of the Library of Congress.

#### Professor Munch-Petersen

Professor H. Munch-Petersen, administrator of the University of Copenhagen, made a tour of American university centers last autumn upon an invitation from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Foundation. Before his return to Denmark he lectured at Columbia University, and he also interrupted his journey home to deliver two lectures at the University of London. They were given under the Department of Scandinavian Studies and were on *The Main Features of Scandinavian Law* and *The Law of Procedure from the Social Point of View*.

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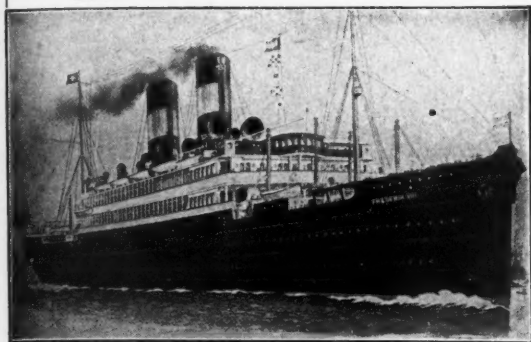


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Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Oscar II	Apr. 28
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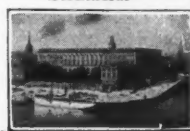
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## SHIPPING NOTES

### "KUNGSHOLM" NEW SWEDISH MOTOR LINER

G. Hilmer Lundbeck, managing director in America for the Swedish American Line, returning from a trip to Europe, states that it has been definitely decided to name the new motor liner of the company "Kungsholm." The Kungsholm will alternate with the line's other motorship, Gripsholm, on the New York-Gothenburg route. It is expected to have the Kungsholm in service in the summer of 1928.

### UNITED STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S JUBILEE

Sixty years have passed since the first ship with the white Maltese cross from its home port, Copenhagen, initiated a service which has spread to the Seven Seas. In celebrating the great shipping event, due consideration is given to the work of C. F. Tietgen, whose energy and foresight were responsible for the establishing of the company. Tietgen was one of the Danes who saw in the defeat of Denmark in the German-Danish war an occasion for rising above circumstances, and as the time was ripe for world shipping on a large scale, he resolved that Denmark was to share in it.

The advancement of the United Steamship Company in recent years must also be credited to a great extent to the managing director, A. O. Andersen, who during the last five years has been instrumental in greatly extending the company's scope of operation.

### NORWEGIAN SHIPOWNERS PLACING LARGE ORDERS

Nearly 200,000 tons of new ships are ordered by Norwegian shipowners. The greater amount of this tonnage is being constructed outside of Norway, due largely to the fact that longer credits are being extended by the foreign shipyards, and also because of the higher rate of the Norwegian krone. Naturally, however, the Norwegian shipyards regret that so much tonnage has gone to foreign yards. One of these foreign orders is for a 10,000 ton Diesel motorship to be built at the Deutsche Werke in Kiel.

### SWEDISH COMPANY ORDERS MOTORSHIPS

For service in its traffic on Australia the A. R. Transatlantic Company has ordered from the Göta Shipyards two motorships, each having a loading capacity of 9,000 tons, and to be equipped with Diesel motors of 6,000 horsepower, capable of producing a speed of 15 knots when fully loaded. The first of these ships is to be delivered by January 1, 1928, and the second eight months later.

### INCREASE SEEN IN NORWEGIAN LINER TRAFFIC

The Norwegian Shipowners' Association has recently published figures showing that the Norwegian liner traffic has greatly increased within the past few years. The statistics comprise four tables, the most important of which deal with liner traffic between Norway and foreign ports, and between foreign ports for foreign accounts.

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